

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, it is long past the time since this Congress should be passing legislation to create a universal single-payer system of health care in the United States. This past week we saw General Motors cut \$1 billion a year in health care expenses for 750,000 auto workers and retirees. People who have worked every day of their lives and made a contribution to this society are suddenly finding their health care benefits drastically reduced.

Over 40 million Americans do not have health insurance. Millions more cannot afford to pay health insurance because they are finding premiums, co-pays, and deductibles rising. It is time that the government stepped in dramatically to create a single-payer system. It is time that we realize that health care is a basic right in our society. It is time that we saw that we are already paying for universal health care. We are not getting it. One out of every four dollars goes for the activities of the for-profit system, for corporate profits, advertising, marketing, the cost of paperwork, 20 to 30 percent.

It is time that we stood up for the American people and for the health of our people and passed H.R. 676, a universal single-payer health care system.

□ 1015

#### FISCAL SANITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as a fiscal conservative, I rise today in relief that the Democrats have not been able to have their way with the Federal checkbook.

In fact, if they would have had their way with spending, a new report by the House Committee on Appropriations released yesterday shows they would have increased spending by more than \$60 billion over the past 3 years.

Before our Nation faced the challenges of the recent hurricanes, our Nation was on track to produce more and our government was spending less. In fact, last year Congress held nonsecurity discretionary spending to a 1 percent growth rate, far below inflation and the previous 5-year average growth of 6 percent. And last year, Congress held nonsecurity discretionary spending to a 1.4 percent growth rate, less than inflation and a major reduction from previous years.

Democrats, on the other hand, have no plan to reduce the deficit. While they complain about budget deficits, they propose billions more in new spending. Their only answer is to raise taxes in order to have more money to spend. That is not good for the family checkbook or the American economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my Democratic colleagues to join me in restoring

ing fiscal sanity. In 1997 the House passed a deficit-reduction bill with 153 Democrat votes that saved billions. They should join us in a similar move now.

#### DISTORT THE TRUTH WEEK

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is Republican "tort reform week" in the House of Representatives. However, I think a more appropriate name would be "distort the truth week."

Two bills on this week's House calendar, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act and the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act unjustly slams the courthouse doors in the face of injured plaintiffs.

And why are we voting to shut the doors of courthouses to legitimate plaintiffs? So the Republican Party can give a gift to special interests and the fast food industry and the NRA. It is time to put a stop to this charade. If the goal is to prevent frivolous lawsuits, then punish the lawyers who file them. But if the goal is to give unscrupulous food companies and gun dealers free reign to make their products more dangerous, then by all means I urge my colleagues to support both bills.

However, my goal is to protect the American people, to ensure safe business practices in food production and in the gun industries and to preserve the integrity of our judicial system. That is why I am voting "no" on both the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act and the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, if the Democrats were in charge, as they would like, they would increase our spending this year by tens of billions of dollars. In fact, over the last 3 years Democrats have attempted to bust the discretionary budget by more than \$60 billion.

Where would we find the money for their additions for this astronomical amount? You know the answer because it is their answer to every single problem, higher taxes.

However, Republicans are looking for savings from other programs, not raising taxes on hard-working Americans. Being fiscally responsible is the only answer, not just spending more money. We have an obligation to the American people to restrain spending. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle had their way, they would spend billions of dollars on programs that sound perfectly wonderful; but, frankly, that

is what would be fiscally irresponsible and immoral.

My Republican colleagues and I realize the importance of fiscal restraint and financial responsibility, and we are working to find a solution that will not bury our children and grandchildren under mounds of debt. I urge my colleagues from across the aisle to join us in this responsible and moral initiative.

#### APRIL FOOL'S DAY COMES EARLY TO HOUSE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, April Fool's Day has come early to the United States House of Representatives. The Republicans are in charge. They control everything, and in the last 5 years our debt has increased 60 percent to \$8 trillion. That is \$27,000 for every American. Well, not for every American, only for working Americans because the rich are exempt from taxes.

What they are talking about here, the hard-working Americans, the only people who got a pay raise last year, the people who earn over \$1.3 million a year.

Madam Speaker, 99 percent of the people in this country had their real incomes go down last year, but not that group. That is who the Republicans want to protect here. It is trickle-down economics. They say we need it now more than ever. How else are we going to recover from Hurricane Katrina? They want to give the wealthiest among us, the top one-tenth of 1 percent, the millionaires, tax breaks, and they will trickle-down on America.

Well, the people of the Southeast have been trickled down upon. And, in fact, some of them drowned because of the incompetence of these people.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN DORN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a great South Carolinian, in fact a great American, William Jennings Bryan Dorn, passed away at the age of 89 on August 13, 2005. He represented the citizens of my district from 1947 to 1974, 13 terms, 26 years.

His list of accomplishments is long and impressive. Before coming to DC, he served as the youngest member of both the South Carolina House and the Senate, and was a proud veteran of World War II. During his service here on Capitol Hill, Dorn became chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and a strong advocate of military personnel. He worked on several